

What is Claimed is:

1. An interface method for use in accessing information from a plurality of information suppliers, the method comprising:
 - machine-reading a tag carried by an item; and
 - in response to data carried by the tag, identifying an information resource address carried by the tag and accessing the identified resource to download from that resource information aggregated from the plurality of information suppliers.
2. An interface method for use in accessing information from a plurality of information resources, the method comprising:
 - machine-reading a tag carried by an item; and
 - in response to data carried by the tag, identifying a plurality of information resource addresses carried by the tag and accessing the identified resources to download information from those resources.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the operation of reading the tag takes place upon placing the item onto or into a support surface.
4. The method of Claim 3, comprising displaying the downloaded information on or beside the support surface.
5. A method of advertising, marketing or disseminating information on behalf of a plurality of information suppliers, comprising:
 - providing a tagged item to a user having a tag reader;
 - in response to use of the tag reader, identifying and accessing an information resource carried by the tag; and
 - downloading information to the user from that resource information aggregated from the plurality of information suppliers.

6. A method of advertising, marketing or disseminating information on behalf of a plurality of information suppliers, comprising:

- providing a tagged item to a user having a tag reader;
- in response to use of the tag reader, identifying and accessing a plurality of information resource addresses carried by the tag, at least one address for each of the plurality of information suppliers; and
- downloading information to the user from the identified resource addresses.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of information suppliers are providers of products or services to which the supplied information relates, and wherein the tagged item represents a theme to which the products or services relate.

8. Apparatus for accessing information from a plurality of information suppliers, the apparatus comprising:

- a user interface including a display and control input means associated with the display;
- a tag reader for reading a tag associated with an item; and
- means responsive to the tag reader for identifying an information resource address carried by the tag and accessing the identified resource to download from that resource information aggregated from the plurality of information suppliers.

9. Apparatus for accessing information from a plurality of information suppliers, the apparatus comprising:

- a user interface including a display and control input means associated with the display;
- a tag reader for reading a tag associated with an item; and
- means responsive to the tag reader for identifying a plurality of information resource addresses carried by the tag and accessing the identified resources to download information from those resources.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the control input means comprises a touch screen overlaying the display.

11. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the tag reader comprises a reader/writer capable of writing data to a tag.

12. The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising a decoder for identifying a coded information resource address carried by a tag, and access means for accessing the identified information resource.

13. The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising a support surface, and wherein the tag reader includes means for reading a tag when a tagged item is placed onto or into the support surface.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the tag reader includes excitation means disposed under the support surface.

15. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the display is presented by the support surface.

16. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the display is projected and/or reflected upwardly from under the support surface.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the support surface has a reader portion onto or into which a tagged item can be placed to read its tag, and a display portion on which the display can be presented.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the support surface is continuous between the reader portion and the display portion.

19. The apparatus of Claim 9, and being embodied in an item of furniture.
20. The apparatus of Claim 19, and being embodied in the form of a table.
21. A tagged item comprising:
 - a tag including means for carrying an information resource address which, when read, identifies an information resource address carried by the tag and accesses the identified resource to download from that resource information aggregated from a plurality of information suppliers.
22. A tagged item comprising:
 - a tag including means for carrying an information resource address which, when read, identifies a plurality of information resource addresses carried by the tag and accesses the identified resources to download information from those resources.
23. A method of tagging an item, the method comprising:
 - storing an information resource address on a tag;
 - storing data on the tag such that, when the data is read, the information resource address is identified and the identified resource is accessed to download from that resource information aggregated from a plurality of information suppliers; and
 - applying the tag to the item.
24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the information resource is an Internet or intranet resource addressable by a URL.
25. A method of tagging an item, the method comprising:
 - storing a plurality of information resource addresses on a tag;
 - storing data on the tag such that, when the data is read, the plurality of information resource addresses is identified and the identified resources are accessed to

download information from those resources; and
applying the tag to the item.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein each information resource is an Internet or intranet resource addressable by a URL.